

BOOK REVIEWS



In this, our second issue of 1992, we would like to call your attention to a number of publications that you will find both informative and useful:

- **THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1991-1992.** By the Director and Staff of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (Brassey's, 1991. 250 Pages. \$52.50, Softbound). This authoritative and world-renowned annual publication provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the military forces and defense expenditures of more than 140 countries; its data is current as of 1 June 1991, and it reflects the reduced strength of the Iraqi armed forces. Of particular interest to U.S. researchers and general readers is an annex that lists the order of battle of the coalition forces during Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, differentiating between those that were deployed purely for the defensive phase and those that took part in the offensive operations.

A map of the Middle East showing the deployment of key air and land equipment in the region as of 1 June 1991 is provided as a loose insert. Of interest, too, is the Director's statement that this is "the first edition not to include a separate section detailing the armed forces of the Non-Soviet Warsaw Pact countries" and that "it may well be the last to include a section entitled the Soviet Union."

- **UNITED STATES ARMY WEAPON SYSTEMS, 1991.** Published under the auspices of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition (USGPO S/N 008-020-01239-8. 1991. 187 Pages. \$12.00, Softbound). This is another annual publication, but its mission is different from that of the one mentioned above. It is designed to acquaint a reader with many of the Army's weapon systems and other support equipment. Following a brief description of the technology based portion of the Army's research and development program, the various items are placed in categories according to their specific missions—close combat; air defense; fire support; combat support; combat service support; command, control, and communications; soldier support; and

strategic conflict. Many of the entries describe a Soviet counterpart, which adds a nice touch to the publication's overall tone.

- **ART FROM THE TRENCHES: AMERICA'S UNIFORMED ARTISTS IN WORLD WAR I.** By Alfred Emile Cornebise (Texas A&M University Press, 1991. Volume 20 in the Military History Series. 157 Pages. \$50.00). When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, eight U.S. artists and illustrators were commissioned as captains in the Corps of Engineers and designated official artists of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. From early 1918 until several months after the armistice of 11 November 1918 had been signed, they were in France and later in Germany performing their artistic duties.

Although their work for the Army has been largely forgotten, the author of this book gives us a proper selection (66 pieces all told) to demonstrate their wide range of subjects and treatments of wartime themes. He follows up with a brief description of each of the artists' postwar careers. (Two of the artists, George Harding and Harvey Dunn, used their talents for the armed forces again during World War II. Dunn joined the USO and traveled widely to military hospitals and training camps. Harding, at the age of 60, accepted a captain's commission in the U.S. Marine Corps and covered the war in the Pacific for 20 months, producing more than 600 pictures.) Much of their World War I work has been held by the Smithsonian Institution since 1919.

- **A CONCISE DICTIONARY OF MILITARY BIOGRAPHY.** By Martin Windrow and Francis K. Mason (Wiley, 1991. 337 Pages. \$24.95). Two well-known British writers on military subjects joined pens and talents to produce this very fine reference work. In it they offer a reader a look at 200 important military figures in history, some for their battlefield exploits, others for their theoretical compositions, others because they were great men of other cultures. (One woman is included—Jeanne d'Arc.) Each entry gives a brief personal biography, describes battles, tactics, and

maneuvers, and provides an analysis of the individual in the field and in history. The authors do not expect everyone to agree with all of their selections, but they do believe that "many of the names included in this book are beyond all challenge."

- **SOLDIERS: A PORTRAIT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.** Text by Shelby L. Stanton (Howell Press, Inc., 700 Harris Street, Suite B, Charlottesville, VA 22901. 1990. 208 pages). This is an absolutely gorgeous book. Hundreds of photographs (most in full color, others full or double page size) complement just enough text to make it a magnificent tribute to today's soldiers, the "vanguards of democracy."

History is not forgotten, for the early narrative and group of photographs show the Army's evolution from the trenches of Civil War battlefields to the jungles of Vietnam. There is one minor comment: New infantry soldiers have been trained under the OSUT (one station unit training) system for a number of years.

- **PEARL HARBOR, 1941: A BIBLIOGRAPHY.** By Myron J. Smith, Jr. (Greenwood Press, 1991. Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders Number 4. 224 Pages. \$55.00). The author provides more than 1,500 citations from 11 languages. This is an annotated bibliography in that the author not only examines the published literature but also cites the main repositories in the United States and abroad that hold the data any researcher or student of the events surrounding that day in December 1941 would find most helpful.

- **AN UNKNOWN FUTURE AND A DOUBTFUL PRESENT: WRITING THE VICTORY PLAN OF 1941.** By Charles E. Kirkpatrick (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1990. CMH Pub 93-10. USGPO S/N 008-029-00208-6. 158 Pages. \$4.75, Softbound). The author details how the War Department's Victory Plan of 1941 came to be written, and its importance as the blueprint for the general mobilization of the Army for World War II and also for the operational concept by which the U.S. would fight the war. He also tells of the important role played by then-Major Albert C. Wedemeyer in the plan's preparation.

BOOK REVIEWS

Now here are a number of our longer reviews:

THE NORTON BOOK OF MODERN WAR. Edited by Paul Fussell (W.W. Norton, 1990. 720 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Chris Timmers, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Why would a publisher commission an English professor at the University of Pennsylvania to collect a compendium of short stories, news dispatches, poems, and personal remembrances on the brutalities of war in the 20th century? Well, if that professor were himself a former infantry platoon leader and combat veteran who had been wounded in Italy during World War II, his qualifications would be obvious.

Paul Fussell has brought together both poetry and prose by men and women who lived and fought in this century's bloodiest conflicts from World War I to the Spanish Civil War to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Their stories are based on direct personal experience (such as Daniel Sweeney's in the battle of the Somme), poetry (especially that of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen), and even fiction (a passage from Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* that is often excerpted in anthologies as "Sordo's Last Stand").

Despite the horrific content of many of the pieces, Fussell has included as one of his last entries a portion of General Douglas MacArthur's address to the Corps of Cadets at West Point in 1962—"Duty, Honor, Country"—a speech that focused on the dignity as well as the necessity of the profession of arms. On the basis of his selections, no one can accuse Fussell of being either too pacifist or too warlike.

One has to wonder, however, why he included the remembrances of Linda J. McClenahan, a WAC who worked in communications in Vietnam, or of Bobbie Joe Pettit, who "entertained troops in Vietnam as a member of 'The Pretty Kittens,' an all-girl band," or those of a flight attendant for a civilian airline flying into Vietnam. Perhaps, when compiling selections from our country's failed Indo-China war, he felt compelled, out of some sort of sense of balance, to include certain personal histories from women. But these seem somehow inappropriate when placed against those of the infantrymen and Marines who fought in the rice paddies, forests, and mountains. In fact, they seem to trivialize the sacrifices of the men who were sent to kill or be killed and who bore the overwhelming punishment of loss of life or limb.

Nonetheless, Fussell's anthology deserves to be read. He does not let us forget that the goals of nations or empires require human sacrifice, that war is terrible, and that human life is irreplaceable.

FROM SUMAR TO ROME: THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF ANCIENT ARMIES. By Richard A. Gabriel and Karen S. Metz (Greenwood Press, 1991. 182 Pages. \$45.00). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Manchester, Missouri.

A key element in any appreciation of this book stems from the fact that Richard Gabriel, in addition to being a scholar, is also a former U.S. Army intelligence officer. He therefore brings a military analytical approach to his scholarship. In addition, the authors often took to the field to test such concepts as the difficulty of scoring hits with a composite bow while riding in a chariot. As a result, this is one of the most interesting works of ancient military history to appear in many years.

Similarly, Karen Metz is able to put her specialized knowledge gained as a medical librarian to good use; the authors give particularly thorough coverage to the effectiveness of ancient medical services. Among other interesting conclusions, they point out that the Egyptian use of honey on wounds was more effective than modern antibiotics in certain cases, and that the Roman military medical system was more effective than any subsequent system until at least late in World War I.

My own favorite chapter is the one titled "Weapons and Lethality," because it applies many of the same techniques of evaluation that modern armies use in rating weapon systems. This chapter, together with the one titled "Death, Wounds, and Injury," also offers a comprehensive and systematic coverage of the ancient art of mayhem from the point of view of the common soldier.

I recommend this book most highly, particularly to those readers who are not normally interested in ancient warfare. I also recommend it to those who are interested in the development of weapons or of military medicine. It is both informative and entertaining, and that is a hard combination to beat.

THE CERTAIN TRUMPET: MAXWELL TAYLOR AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM. By Douglas Kinnard

(Brassey's (US), 1991. 252 Pages. \$22.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

No high level player served longer or in more diverse capacities during the Vietnam War than did Maxwell Taylor, a transitional figure between the World War II heroic generals to the managerial leaders of the 1960s. Douglas Kinnard, himself a retired general and first-rate scholar, focuses on this key figure's public career to tell the story of policymaking in Vietnam during the Eisenhower and Johnson years.

After a brief overview of Taylor's military career through the mid-1950s, Kinnard traces Taylor's role and influence as Army Chief of Staff (1955-1959), President Kennedy's military advisor (1961-1962), chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1962-1964), ambassador to Vietnam (1964-1965), and special White House consultant on Vietnam (1965-1968). A brief chapter summarizes his writings and other public activities for two more decades until his death in 1987.

Kinnard's treatment is balanced and insightful. He depicts Taylor's influence on the war as central but not decisive. Taylor's proposals often were rejected, but Kinnard asserts that the General's views were usually better than those that prevailed. His judgment is that Taylor's failure as a policymaker was "not in what he did, but what he failed to do."

This interesting, well-written volume is a most useful addition to a growing literature on those individuals who were our policymakers and decisionmakers during the Vietnam War era.

TWO GREAT REBEL ARMIES. By Richard M. McMurry (University of North Carolina Press, 1989. 204 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

This is certainly one of the most worthwhile Civil War history books to be published in recent years. It is an exceptionally well-written discussion of the Confederacy's two main armies that were fielded during the war. (The Southern government fielded some two dozen armies all told.)

The author takes an in-depth look at the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee. The former army's battlefield record showed almost entirely victories until mid-1863 followed by nothing but hard-fought campaigns and defeats until its final surrender in 1865. On the other hand, the

Army of Tennessee—except for the battle of Chickamauga in late 1863—could claim virtually no successes from early 1861 to its surrender in North Carolina in 1865.

The author, who is a distinguished Civil War historian, spends the entire book in looking at the numerous factors that might explain the two armies' wartime performance. His scrutiny considers a wide variety of factors, including the leadership and composition of the opposing Union armies.

He believes the Army of Northern Virginia's performance cannot be attributed solely to its commander, Robert E. Lee. He does feel, however, that a leader's influence on his men, such as that Lee exercised, is vital to the total performance of an Army. His book is well worth reading and highly recommended.

WORLD WAR II IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, 1942-1945. By Carlo D'Este (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 1990. 218 Pages. \$22.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Donald C. Snedeker, United States Army.

In his introduction to this book, John S.D. Eisenhower, editor of this series of World War II histories and a military historian in his own right, says Carlo D'Este has written a "reevaluation of the Allied campaigns in the Mediterranean. . . free of the supposed truths on which we were raised."

But D'Este does not appear to have written a revisionist history just to be different. He has indeed reevaluated the campaigns (most of them, at least) and the roles the major participants played. And particularly for Generals Alexander and Montgomery, he has arrived at a conclusion of leadership effectiveness "free of the supposed truths on which we were raised."

At the same time, D'Este has tried to put a reader in the infantryman's boots as he slogged his way through the heat of Tunisia, the mountains of Sicily, and the mud of Italy. In other words, he describes the policies, strategy, operations, tactics, personalities, equipment, and battles of three long and hard years of fighting against a tenacious foe—all in 200 pages.

Unfortunately, the author's conclusions are not reinforced with facts. There are no footnotes, and the bibliography is presented more as a palette of what's available than as references for the text.

In the final analysis, the book exposes the campaign in the Mediterranean as being a disjointed one, without strategic guidance or

objective and almost constantly on the verge of disaster. Nevertheless, it was the crucible in which the major Allied commanders—Eisenhower, Montgomery, Bradley, Patton, Tedder, and others—learned the lessons on how to do and not to do things for the crucial cross-channel invasion in 1944.

If this book were a ball game, you could say, "You win some, you lose some, and for some you don't even get tickets." The project is just too ambitious for what the publishers deem an appropriate length for today's reading market. More important, however, the book fails to live up to a standard to be accepted as serious military history.

INSIDE SPETSNAZ: SOVIET SPECIAL OPERATIONS, A CRITICAL ANALYSIS. Edited by William H. Burgess III (Presidio, 1990. 308 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Manchester, Missouri.

This is the fourth work to appear during the past few years on the Soviet Special Forces and by far the best. Assembled in symposium form to draw on the knowledge and experience of nine authors, the book does an excellent job of looking at what really is known about Spetsnaz without the bias or mythology sometimes employed by authors writing about this particular Soviet organization.

One of the most useful aspects of this book is that it puts Spetsnaz into its historical perspective by devoting almost half of its pages to Soviet special operations during the Russian revolution, the Spanish civil war, and World War II. Not only do these sections lay the foundations for the development of Soviet special operations theory, they also make interesting and informative historical reading.

Later chapters deal with more contemporary topics, including Spetsnaz deployment in Afghanistan, deep operations in wartime, and training. The chapter on training is especially enlightening since it gives insight into the mindset and physical characteristics considered desirable for Spetsnaz members.

The final chapter consists of 15 conclusions about Spetsnaz that can be drawn from the information presented in the other chapters. I would recommend that even readers who feel they do not have time to read the entire book take ten minutes to read this chapter.

The book concludes with an appendix that lists important personnel with capsule

biographies, and an extensive bibliography of what are basically open sources for further reading. I strongly recommend this book to both the general reader and the military professional.

WHERE EAGLES LAND. By Jerold E. Brown (Greenwood Press, 1990. Contributions in Military Studies Number 94. 232 Pages. \$29.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Mudie, United States Air Force Retired.

This study of the planning and development of U.S. Army airfields from 1910-1941 is an effort to fill what the author perceived as a void in the historical record. Specifically, he wanted to tell why our air bases are located where they are.

Jerold Brown, an associate professor of military history at the Army's Command and General Staff College when he wrote this book, undoubtedly had to sift through a lot of boring reference material to complete his work. But the book would have been more interesting if he had included more anecdotes of well-known figures, such as Fiorello LaGuardia and his failed effort to establish an Army Air Corps field on Governor's Island.

He does include a number of excellent chronological maps and tables that show the growth and distribution of the airfields. But there are numerous misspellings and words run together in the text itself. More than a third of the book consists of notes and selected bibliography, so it is best used as a reference for any individual who may want further information on the subject.

At \$39.95 per copy, that individual would be wiser to look for the book in a library instead of buying it.

WAR, PEACE, AND VICTORY: STRATEGY AND STATECRAFT FOR THE NEXT CENTURY. By Colin S. Gray (Simon and Schuster, 1990. 442 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Stephen A. Johnson, Columbus, Georgia.

The author is chairman of the National Institute for Public Policy and the author of many works on such subjects as arms control, nuclear strategy, and geopolitics. In this book, he attempts to provide the military services and the civilian politicians with a framework for strategic thinking, a subject much on the minds of many of our country's leaders today.

Gray notes that winning is the goal and that the United States must learn to adjust its

policy, strategy, and means to fit changing political realities. He believes that strategy and the five themes he develops in the book (the unity of strategic phenomena; the influence of geography; the value of historical experience; the power of national culture to help shape expectations, beliefs, and behavior; and the consequences of technological change for statecraft and strategy) are essential for the proper identification and implementation of the "means-end nexus." He argues strongly that strategy applies equally to peace as to war and that winning in peace may well preclude the need for war.

This effort is far superior to the author's earlier attempts to show the importance of thinking strategically. I strongly recommend it to students of the subject and to military leaders who are involved with national strategy and security policies.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL: STATESMAN, 1945-1959. By Forrest C. Pogue (Viking, 1987. 603 Pages. \$29.95). Reviewed by Doctor Charles E. White, 21st TAACOM Command Historian.

George Marshall (1880-1959) was a totally incorruptible leader with a deep intellect, a crisp capacity for making decisions, and a selfless devotion to duty. Like Marshall himself, this book is great biography. It is the fourth and final volume of Forrest Pogue's masterful study of Marshall, and he presents a detailed picture of the brilliantly effective soldier turned master statesman.

The book is aptly sub-titled. Pogue takes the wartime Army chief of staff through his postwar career as special envoy to China, Secretary of State, and finally Secretary of Defense. These were the years that witnessed the reconstruction of Europe, the triumph of communism in China, the beginning of the cold war, the birth of NATO, the creation of Israel, and the Korean War. Marshall was a central figure in all of these events, and it is Pogue's belief that Marshall's qualities of leadership and integrity are today in short supply.

Marshall soon discovered that winning the peace was much more complex than conducting the war. The Chinese communists called him Chiang Kai-shek's stooge as he sincerely tried to mediate an end to the Chinese civil war. Later, Senator Joseph McCarthy called him Mao Tse-tung's stooge. Congress demanded that he get tough with the Russians, but appropriated funds for barely two divisions.

Even Eisenhower deserted his mentor when it appeared that supporting Marshall would impair his own relationship with McCarthy. Perhaps the greatest irony of Marshall's postwar service came when he was called forward to receive the Nobel Peace Prize and several demonstrators shouted, "Murderer! Murderer!"

Through it all, Marshall never gave up his hopes and dreams for a peaceful, better world. Although he was not perfect, George C. Marshall remained imperturbable to the end.

LIGHT FORCES AND THE FUTURE OF U.S. MILITARY STRATEGY. By Michael J. Mazarr (Brassey's (US), 1990. An AUSA Institute of Land Warfare Book. 180 Pages. \$32.00). Reviewed by Colonel James B. Motley, United States Army Retired.

This is an informative and well-researched book. It will certainly draw mixed reviews. The author, who is with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, examines the U.S. Army's future "through the prism of the most important issue it faces: the balance of light, heavy and middleweight units in its force structure." He contends that a middleweight force of light mechanized and light armored units would be easier to deploy than today's heavy forces and would have more firepower and mobility than today's light infantry units.

He believes that "neither a counter-insurgency (CI) war nor a European conflict is likely" and that "certain forms of conflict between CI and major war . . . will pose the key challenges to U.S. interests, and hence U.S. Army planning into the twenty-first century."

Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM were a mixed blessing for this book, which appeared before either got under way. He did not think it likely that the U.S. would be committed to the Gulf "or other mid-intensity conflicts." (In all fairness to him, his conclusion was based on a Soviet incursion into the Gulf region, not the irrational act of Saddam Hussein.)

On the other hand, he is correct to state that "the lack of a significant U.S. strategic lift capability remains a primary barrier to any U.S. rapid deployments," and that our present light units, such as the 82d Airborne Division, are too light to stand alone against any significant opposing heavy units.

Assuming the existing trends remain valid, the author is also correct in

recognizing two key points: One, the future combat environment the Army will confront will be one much more suited to light rather than heavy forces; and, two, continued emphasis on heavy units will consign the Army to "virtual irrelevance" during the 1990s and beyond.

I strongly recommend this book to the career military man and to the serious student of U.S. national security policies. It gives insights into the direction the Army must move if it is to retain its role as the primary landpower arm of our nations' armed forces.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RIFLE AND PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP, 1935. Originally published by the United States Marine Corps, 1936. Lancer Militaria. 104 Pages. \$11.95, Softbound.

IN THE CAMERA'S EYE: NEWS COVERAGE OF TERRORIST EVENTS. By Yonah Alexander and Robert G. Picard. Brassey's (U.S.), 1991. 156 Pages. \$19.95.

MUD SOLDIERS: LIFE INSIDE THE NEW AMERICAN ARMY. By George C. Wilson. First published in hard cover in 1989. Collier Books. Macmillan, 1991. 276 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

BUSINESS PARTNERS: THE BEST PISTOL/AMMUNITION COMBINATIONS FOR PERSONAL DEFENSE. By Peter Alan Kasler. Paladin Press, 1991. 187 Pages. \$22.95.

RADIO EQUIPMENT OF THE THIRD REICH, 1933-1945. By Charles J. Barger. Paladin Press, 1991. 106 Pages. \$25.00, Softbound.

FIRST TO FIGHT: AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS. By Victor H. Krulak. First published in hard cover in 1984. Pocket Books, 1991. 292 Pages. \$4.95.

UNIFORMS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. By John Mollo. Originally published in hard cover in 1975. Sterling, 1991. 232 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS, 1945-1978. By Bettie J. Morden. Army Historical Series. Center of Military History, U.S. Army, 1990. CMH Pub 30-14. USGPO S/N 008-029-00201-9. 543 Pages. \$30.00.

THE DICTIONARY OF MODERN WAR: A GUIDE TO THE IDEAS, INSTITUTIONS AND WEAPONS OF MODERN MILITARY POWER. By Edward Luttwak and Stuart L. Koehl. HarperCollins, 1991. 680 Pages. \$45.00.

RECURRING LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS AS I HAVE OBSERVED THEM. By Carter B. Magruder. Center of Military History, U.S. Army, 1991 CMH Pub 70-39. USGPO S/N 008-029-00209-4. 134 Pages. \$7.00, Softbound.

CASE STUDIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE AIR SUPPORT. Edited by Benjamin Franklin Cooling. Special Studies. Office of Air Force History, USGPO S/N 008-070-00635-9. 606 Pages. \$30.00.

THE COLD WAR: FIFTY YEARS OF CONFLICT. By William G. Hyland. Originally published in 1990 as *The Cold War Is Over*. Times Books. Random House, 1991. 222 Pages. \$12.00, Softbound.